

**6380 E 46th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226-3548**

January 20, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The lawsuit against Microsoft is ridiculous and reflects a lack of knowledge on behalf of the judiciary system and politicians about software and the whole computer industry. It is not in the public's best interests for this thing to continue any longer.

The settlement as it is too harsh and violates a number of free market principles. First, to disclose information that Microsoft has worked so hard to develop seems to undermine the whole reason or principle motivation behind innovating your own technology for profit. If every business had to offer up its secrets there would be less incentive to start a business based on a good idea. Second, to force Microsoft to license its Windows products to over 20 computer makers is the same as creating a monopoly whereby they can determine prices in the marketplace that will best serve themselves. It will inevitably lead to higher prices across the board and that will be an infringement on human rights.

I think it is wrong to punish one company out of the many in the marketplace for doing an excellent job especially in the area of standardization which has reduced costs and efforts after purchase and upgrading the PC's for homes and businesses. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Oline K. Small